

and the opportunity for today's young workers to build a nest egg for their retirement.

In the past four years, America has faced many challenges, both overseas and at home. We have overcome these challenges not simply with our financial resources, but with the qualities that have always made America great: creativity, resolve, and a caring spirit. America has vast resources, but no resource is as abundant as the strength of the American people. It is this strength that will help us to continue to prosper and meet any challenge that lies before us.

GEORGE W. BUSH.
February 7, 2005.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-604. A communication from the Director of Finance, United States Capitol Historical Society, transmitting, audited financial statements for the Capitol Historical Society covering the year ended January 31, 2004; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

EC-605. A communication from the Coordinator, Forms Committee, Federal Election Commission, transmitting, revisions to Schedules H1, H2, H3, and H4 of the FEC Form 3X, Report of Receipts and Disbursements for Other than an Authorized Committee, revisions to the instructions for FEC Form 3X and the Explanation and Justification for these revisions; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following executive reports of committees were submitted:

By Ms. COLLINS for the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

*Allen Weinstein, of Maryland, to be Archivist of the United States.

*Michael Chertoff, of New Jersey, to be Secretary of Homeland Security.

*Nomination was reported with recommendation that it be confirmed subject to the nominee's commitment to respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. SCHUMER:

S. 297. A bill to provide for adjustment of immigration status for certain aliens granted temporary protected status in the United States because of conditions in Montserrat, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. INOUE:

S. 298. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the reduction in the deductible portion of expenses for business meals and entertainment; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. WYDEN:

S. 299. A bill to make information regarding certain investments in the energy sector in Iran available to the public, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Ms. COLLINS (for herself, Mr. FEINGOLD, Mr. LUGAR, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. BURNS, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. BOND, Mr. THOMAS, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. SANTORUM, Mrs. LINCOLN, Mr. JEFFORDS, Mr. CONRAD, and Mr. LEAHY):

S. 300. A bill to extend the temporary increase in payments under the medicare program for home health services furnished in a rural area; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. LEAHY (for himself, Mr. JEFFORDS, Mr. GREGG, and Mr. SUNUNU):

S. 301. A bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to provide assistance in implementing cultural heritage, conservation, and recreational activities in the Connecticut River watershed of the States of New Hampshire and Vermont; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. KENNEDY (for himself, Mr. GREGG, Mr. ENZI, Mr. FRIST, and Mr. BINGAMAN):

S. 302. A bill to make improvements in the Foundation for the National Institutes of Health; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. JOHNSON:

S. 303. A bill to amend the Social Security Act and the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exempt certain employment as a member of a local governing board from social security coverage; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. LAUTENBERG (for himself, Mr. BIDEN, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. KOHL, Mr. CORZINE, Mr. FEINGOLD, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. SCHUMER, Ms. MIKULSKI, and Mr. AKAKA):

S. 304. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit certain interstate conduct relating to exotic animals; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CRAIG:

S. 305. A bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to recruit volunteers to assist with or facilitate the activities of various agencies and offices of the Department of the Interior; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Ms. SNOWE (for herself, Mr. FRIST, Mr. GREGG, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. ENZI, Mr. JEFFORDS, Mr. DODD, Mr. HARKIN, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. TALENT, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mr. HATCH, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mrs. MURRAY, and Mrs. CLINTON):

S. 306. A bill to prohibit discrimination on the basis of genetic information with respect to health insurance and employment; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. SANTORUM:

S. 307. A bill to amend the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 to extend national dairy market loss payments; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. FRIST (for himself, Mr. REID, Mr. LUGAR, Mr. BIDEN, Mr. AKAKA, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. ALLARD, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. BAYH, Mr. BENNETT, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mr. BOND, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. BROWNBACK, Mr. BUNNING, Mr. BURNS, Mr. BURR, Mr. BYRD, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. CARPER, Mr. CHAFEE, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mrs. CLINTON, Mr. COBURN, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. COLEMAN, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. CONRAD, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. CORZINE, Mr. CRAIG, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. DAYTON, Mr. DEMINT, Mr. DEWINE, Mr. DODD, Mrs. DOLE, Mr. DOMENICI, Mr. DORGAN, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. ENSIGN, Mr. ENZI, Mr. FEINGOLD, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. GREGG, Mr. HAGEL, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. HATCH, Mrs. HUTCHISON, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. INOUE, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. JEFFORDS, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. KERRY, Mr. KOHL, Mr. KYL, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mrs. LINCOLN, Mr. LOTT, Mr. MARTINEZ, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. McCONNELL, Ms. MIKULSKI, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. NELSON of Florida, Mr. NELSON of Nebraska, Mr. OBAMA, Mr. PRYOR, Mr. REED, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mr. SALAZAR, Mr. SANTORUM, Mr. SARBANES, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. SHELBY, Mr. SMITH, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. SPECTER, Mr. STABENOW, Mr. STEVENS, Mr. SUNUNU, Mr. TALENT, Mr. THOMAS, Mr. THUNE, Mr. VITTER, Mr. VOINOVICH, Mr. WARNER, and Mr. WYDEN):

S. Res. 38. A resolution commending the people of Iraq on the January 30, 2005, national elections; considered and agreed to.

By Ms. LANDRIEU (for herself, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. FRIST, Mr. REID, Mr. ALLARD, Mr. AKAKA, Mr. BROWNBACK, Mr. BAYH, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. BIDEN, Mr. ENSIGN, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. HAGEL, Mr. CORZINE, Mr. LUGAR, Mr. DAYTON, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. DODD, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. SPECTER, Mr. FEINGOLD, Mr. STEVENS, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. TALENT, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. JEFFORDS, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. KOHL, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. NELSON of Florida, Mr. PRYOR, and Mr. SCHUMER):

S. Res. 39. A resolution apologizing to the victims of lynching and the descendants of those victims for the failure of the Senate to enact anti-lynching legislation; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. LANDRIEU (for herself, Mr. DURBIN, and Mr. SANTORUM):

S. Res. 40. A resolution supporting the goals and ideas of National Time Out Day to promote the adoption of the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations' universal protocol for preventing errors in the operating room; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. KENNEDY (for himself, Mr. KERRY, Mr. REED, Mr. CHAFEE, Mr. DODD, and Mr. LIEBERMAN):

S. Res. 41. A resolution congratulating the New England Patriots on their victory in Super Bowl XXXIX; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. LUGAR:

S. Res. 42. A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate on promoting initiatives to develop an HIV vaccine; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 5

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the names of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BOND) and the Senator from Arizona (Mr. MCCAIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 5, a bill to amend the procedures that apply to consideration of interstate class actions to assure fairer outcomes for class members and defendants, and for other purposes.

S. 11

At the request of Mr. NELSON of Florida, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 11, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to ensure that the strength of the Armed Forces and the protections and benefits for members of the Armed Forces and their families are adequate for keeping the commitment of the people of the United States to support their service members, and for other purposes.

S. 12

At the request of Mr. NELSON of Florida, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 12, a bill to combat international terrorism, and for other purposes.

S. 13

At the request of Mr. NELSON of Florida, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 13, a bill to amend titles 10 and 38, United States Code, to expand and enhance health care, mental health, transition, and disability benefits for veterans, and for other purposes.

S. 50

At the request of Mr. INOUE, the names of the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) and the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 50, a bill to authorize and strengthen the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's tsunami detection, forecast, warning, and mitigation program, and for other purposes.

S. 77

At the request of Mr. SESSIONS, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 77, a bill to amend titles 10 and 38, United States Code, to improve death benefits for the families of deceased members of the Armed Forces, and for other purposes.

S. 84

At the request of Mr. INOUE, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. STEVENS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 84, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exempt certain sightseeing flights from taxes on air transportation.

S. 98

At the request of Mr. ALLARD, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 98, a bill to amend the Bank Holding Company Act of 1956 and the Revised Statutes of the United States to prohibit financial holding companies and national banks from engaging, directly

or indirectly, in real estate brokerage or real estate management activities, and for other purposes.

S. 103

At the request of Mr. TALENT, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. NELSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 103, a bill to respond to the illegal production, distribution, and use of methamphetamine in the United States, and for other purposes.

S. 193

At the request of Mr. BROWNBAC, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CONRAD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 193, a bill to increase the penalties for violations by television and radio broadcasters of the prohibitions against transmission of obscene, indecent, and profane language.

S. 196

At the request of Mr. DORGAN, the names of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) and the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. ROCKEFELLER) were added as cosponsors of S. 196, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for the taxation of income of controlled foreign corporations attributable to imported property.

S. 211

At the request of Mrs. CLINTON, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. DAYTON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 211, a bill to facilitate nationwide availability of 2-1-1 telephone service for information and referral on human services, volunteer services, and for other purposes.

S. 256

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the names of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. DEMINT) and the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO) were added as cosponsors of S. 256, a bill to amend title 11 of the United States Code, and for other purposes.

S. 267

At the request of Mr. CRAIG, the names of the Senator from Montana (Mr. BURNS), the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL), the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON), the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) and the Senator from Oregon (Mr. SMITH) were added as cosponsors of S. 267, a bill to reauthorize the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000, and for other purposes.

S. 294

At the request of Mr. BURNS, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. BROWNBAC) was added as a cosponsor of S. 294, a bill to strengthen the restrictions of the importation from BSE minimal-risk regions of meat, meat by-products, and meat food products from bovines.

S. CON. RES. 4

At the request of Mr. NELSON of Florida, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) was added as

a cosponsor of S. Con. Res. 4, a concurrent resolution expressing the sense of the Congress that the Department of Defense should continue to exercise its statutory authority to support the activities of the Boy Scouts of America, in particular the periodic national and world Boy Scout Jamborees.

S. RES. 26

At the request of Mr. LUGAR, the names of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. ALLEN), the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI), the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. CHAFFEE), the Senator from Florida (Mr. MARTINEZ), the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. HAGEL), the Senator from New Hampshire (Mr. SUNUNU), the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER), the Senator from Delaware (Mr. BIDEN), the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. COLEMAN) and the Senator from Ohio (Mr. VOINOVICH) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 26, a resolution commending the people of Iraq on the election held on January 30, 2005, of a 275-member transitional National Assembly and of provincial and regional governments and encouraging further steps toward establishment of a free, democratic, secure, and prosperous Iraq.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. INOUE:

S. 298. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the reduction in the deductible portion of expenses for business meals and entertainment; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. INOUE. Mr. President, I rise to introduce legislation to repeal the current 50 percent tax deduction for business meals and entertainment expenses, and to restore the tax deduction to 80 percent gradually over a five-year period. Restoration of this deduction is essential to the livelihood of small and independent businesses as well as the food service, travel, tourism, and entertainment industries throughout the United States. These industries are being economically harmed as a result of the 50 percent tax deduction.

Small businesses rely heavily on the business meal to conduct business, even more so than larger corporations. The Small Business Administration (SBA) Office of Advocacy, in releasing a study last May, "The Impact of Tax Expenditure Policies on Incorporated Small Business," found that small incorporated businesses benefit more than their larger counterparts from the meal and entertainment tax deduction. According to the study, small firms that take advantage of the business-meal deduction reduce their effective tax rate by 0.75 percent on average, while larger firms only receive a 0.11 percent reduction in their effective tax rate. More importantly, the study